

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for ~~[stabilizing]~~ enhancing the solubility of a blood protein solution comprising:

(a) ~~[providing a blood protein solution;~~
(b)] adding to ~~[the]~~ a blood protein solution hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin in an amount sufficient to form a stable complex with the protein;
and

~~[(e)]~~ (b) lyophilizing the solution of step ~~[(b)]~~ (a) to form a lyophilized ~~[protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex of the protein and hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin.

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising reconstituting the lyophilized ~~[protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising heating the blood protein solution, before or after adding hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin, at a temperature of at least ~~[about]~~ 60°C for a time sufficient to inactivate any viruses present ~~[in the protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein the blood protein solution is heated for at least ~~[about]~~ 10 hours.

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5. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein the blood protein solution is heated to a temperature of at least ~~[about]~~ 80°C for at least ~~[about]~~ 72 hours.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein the blood protein solution is heated to ~~[about]~~ at least 100°C for at least ~~[about]~~ 1 hour.

7. (Original) The process according to claim 1, further comprising subjecting the blood protein solution, before or after adding the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin, to a solvent detergent viral inactivation step.

8. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present in the protein solution in an amount ranging from about 0.5% wt/vol. to about 15% wt/vol.

9. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present in the protein solution in an amount ranging from about 1% wt/vol. to about 12% wt/vol.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the protein is present in the reconstituted ~~[protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex in an amount greater than about 0.1% wt/vol.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 2 wherein the protein is present in the reconstituted ~~[protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex in an amount from about 1% to about 8 %.

12. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of albumin, Factor II, Factor VII, Factor VIII, Factor IX, Factors X and X_a, fibrinogen, antithrombin III, transferrin, haptoglobin, gamma globulins, fibronectin, protein C, protein S, thrombin and C1-inhibitor.

13. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the protein is fibrinogen.

14. (Original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present in the protein solution in an amount ranging from about 0.5% wt/vol. to about 15% wt/vol.

15. (Original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present in the protein solution in an amount ranging from about 2% wt/vol. to about 12% wt/vol.

16. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the fibrinogen is present in the reconstituted [~~protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin~~] complex in an amount greater than about 1% wt/vol.

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the protein is fibrinogen, and the fibrinogen is present in the reconstituted [~~protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin~~] complex in an amount from about 3% wt/vol. to about 10% wt/vol.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for [~~stabilizing~~] enhancing the stability of a fibrinogen solution comprising:

- (a) [~~providing a fibrinogen solution;~~
- (b)] adding to [~~the~~] a fibrinogen solution hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin in an amount sufficient to form a stable complex with the protein;
- (c)] (b) lyophilizing the solution of step [(b)] (a) to form a lyophilized [~~fibrinogen/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin~~] complex of fibrinogen and hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin; and
- (d)] (c) reconstituting the lyophilized [~~fibrinogen/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin~~] complex.

19. (Currently Amended) A lyophilized ~~[blood-protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex of a blood protein and hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin prepared by:

(a) ~~[providing a blood protein solution;~~

(b) adding to ~~[the]~~ a blood protein solution hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin in an amount sufficient to form a stable complex with the protein; and

(c) lyophilizing the solution of step (b) ~~(a)~~ to form the lyophilized ~~[blood-protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex.

20. (Currently Amended) A blood protein product prepared by:

(a) ~~[providing a blood protein solution;~~

(b) adding to ~~[the]~~ a blood protein solution hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin in an amount sufficient to form a stable complex with the protein;

(c) lyophilizing the solution of step (b) ~~(a)~~ to form a lyophilized ~~[protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex of the protein and hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin; and

(d) ~~(c)~~ reconstituting the lyophilized ~~[protein/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex.

21. (Currently Amended) A fibrinogen product prepared by:

(a) ~~[providing a fibrinogen solution;~~

(b) adding to ~~[the]~~ a fibrinogen solution hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin in an amount sufficient to form a stable complex with the protein;

(c) lyophilizing the solution of step (b) ~~(a)~~ to form a lyophilized ~~[fibrinogen/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex of fibrinogen and hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin; and

(d) ~~(c)~~ reconstituting the lyophilized ~~[fibrinogen/hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin]~~ complex.

22. (Original) A blood protein product comprising a lyophilized solution of a stable complex of protein and hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin.

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23. (Currently Amended) The product according to claim 22, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present [~~in the solution~~] in an amount ranging from about 0.5% wt/vol. to about 15% wt/vol.

24. (Currently Amended) The product according to claim 22, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present [~~in the solution~~] in an amount ranging from about 1% wt/vol. to about 12% wt/vol.

25. (Original) The product according to claim 22, wherein the blood protein is fibrinogen.

26. (Original) A stabilized blood protein solution comprising a complex of the blood protein and hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin.

27. (Original) The solution according to claim 26, wherein the protein is present in the complex in an amount greater than about 3% wt/vol.

28. (Currently Amended) The product according to claim 26, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present in the [~~solution~~] complex in an amount ranging from about 0.5% wt/vol. to about 15% wt/vol.

29. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 26, wherein the hydroxypropyl- α -cyclodextrin is present in the [~~solution~~] complex in an amount ranging from about 1% wt/vol. to about 12% wt/vol.

30. (Original) The product according to claim 26, wherein the blood protein is fibrinogen.